

REMARKS**I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-39 are currently pending in the application and all claims are rejected.

By the Amendment, claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of these changes, claims 1-39 still would be pending.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kato, U.S. Patent No. 7,095,436. Claims 13-21, 24-25, 28-29, 32-33 and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaya, US 2004/0109062, in view of Kato. Claims 22-23, 26-27, 30-31, 34-35 and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaya and Kato, in further view of Watanabe, U.S. Patent No. 7,304,667.

A. Claims 1, 7 and 10:

Claim 1 is directed to an information acquisition method for an information processing apparatus which acquires attribute information related to image data of images stored in an external device. The method, as amended, involves detecting whether the information processing apparatus is connected to the external device so that they can communicate with each other, and acquiring, for each of the images, partial information instead of full information of the attribute information if it is detected that the information processing apparatus is connected to the external device. An example of partial information and full information is shown in Fig. 5 of the application.

On the contrary, Kato describes a digital camera capable of outputting image data to an external apparatus. In Kato, the digital camera has a plurality of group specifying keys (e.g., A-key, B-Key, C-Key and D-Key). These specifying keys may be employed in a reproduction mode to specify a group or subset of pictures (e.g., sort pictures into groups), which

is reflected in recorded index files 20d (e.g., “folderA.text”, “folderB.text”, and “folderC.text”) of memory 20 along with DCIM folder 20a, dated folders 20b and picture files 20c. As shown in Fig. 4, each dated folder 20b is followed by the picture file 20c as well as recorded index files 20d. Thereafter, the index files 20d may be accessed and displayed on a personal computer, where a user can select one of the index files 20d for subsequent processing with respect to the selected group of pictures defined by the selected index file 20d.

As noted above, the index files 20d of Kato simply specify particular groups or groupings of pictures within a dated folder 20b. Accordingly, Kato does not acquire, for each of the images, partial information (instead of full information of the attribute information) stored in the external device. The remaining references do not remedy these deficiencies in the Kato teaching.

Thus, claim 1 and its dependent claims are distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in combination. For similar reasons, amended claims 7 and 10 and their dependent claims are also distinguishable over the cited references.

B. Claims 4 and 13:

Claim 4 is directed to an information processing method for an image recording apparatus which generates attribute information related to image data of stored images. The method, as amended, involves detecting whether the image recording apparatus is connected to an external device so that they can communicate with each other; generating partial information of the attribute information for each of the images if it is detected that the image recording apparatus is connected to the external device; and transmitting the generated partial information instead of full information of the attribute information to the external device.

For similar reasons as noted above for claim 1, the cited references are silent as to generating partial information of the attribute information for each of the images. It necessarily

follows that Kato is also silent as to transmitting the generated partial information (for each of the images) to the external device. As noted above, the index files 20d are used to specify a group of pictures in a dated folder 20b. The other references do not remedy these deficiencies in the Kato teaching.

Claim 4 further recites that this generating of partial information occurs if it is detected that the image recording apparatus is connected to the external device. On the contrary, in Kato, the index files 20d (e.g., folderA.text, etc.) are generated during the reproduction mode where the user can specify or sort into groups pictures using the specifying keys (e.g., A-key, B-Key, C-Key and D-Key). As such, Kato does not show such generation of partial information under the claimed condition, i.e., if it is detected that the image recording apparatus is connected to the external device. The remaining references do not remedy these deficiencies in the Kato teachings.

In view of the foregoing, claim 4 and its dependent claims are distinguishable over the cited references.

Claim 13 recites “creating *for each of the image files*, an object only containing information in a part instead of in full of the categories out of the plurality of pieces of attribute information *when the digital image generating apparatus is connected to the information processing apparatus*.” (emphasis added) For similar reasons as discussed for claim 4, claim 13 and its dependent claims are also distinguishable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

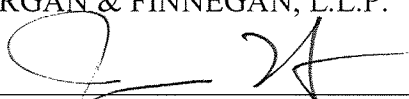
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 1232-5352.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No **13-4500**, Order No. 1232-5352.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 3/14/08

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